

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 5, 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Said claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

The rejection of claims 14, 7, 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Orselli is respectfully traversed. Said claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

The rejection of claims 14, 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DiRe is respectfully traversed. Said claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

The rejection of claims 5, 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Williams is respectfully traversed. Said claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

The rejection of claims 7, 9, 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Orselli is respectfully traversed. Said claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

The rejection of claims 6, 8, 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Orselli in view of Santora is respectfully traversed. Said claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

The rejection of claims 7, 9, 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DiRe is respectfully traversed. Said claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

The rejection of claims 6, 8, 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DiRe in view of Santora is respectfully traversed. Said claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

The rejection of claims 8, 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DiRe as applied to claim 7 and in further view of Santora is respectfully traversed. Said claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

The rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Valdez is respectfully traversed. Said claim has been cancelled without prejudice.

The rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boylan in view of Valdez is respectfully traversed. Said claim has been cancelled without prejudice.

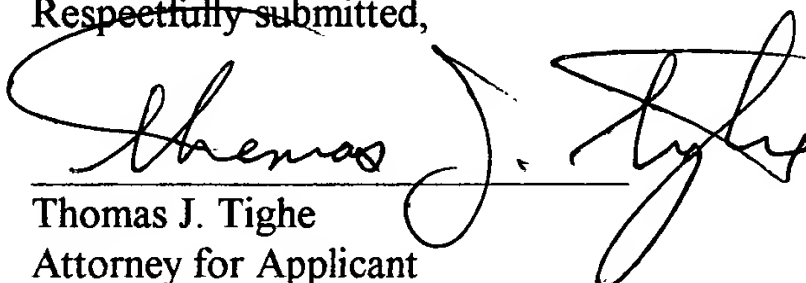
The rejection of claims 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith and further in view of official notice for a card shuffler is respectfully traversed. Said claim has been cancelled without prejudice. In support of this rejection the examiner cites “the Herman reference” which applicant assumes refers to the Herman de Raedt (‘126) patent, but as applicant previously remarked, applicant has asserted the priority of applicant’s U.S. Provisional Application

No. 60/189,544, filed on March 15, 2000. The '126 patent was not filed until March 9, 2001 and so it is not prior art in this case.

All the above new claims were added to focus the claims on the aspect of the invention addressed in the new claims. Applicant has commercial reasons for changing the focus. The new independent claim 16 is similar to claim 15 in focus but with unnecessary limitations removed.. Likewise for independent claims 20 and 26. The new claims were not added to overcome any rejections or objections to date.

It is believed the application is now in a condition for allowance, and reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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